

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /072 W

----- 020408

R 060651Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7852

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT PGOV CH PINR

SUBJECT: FEI I-MIN ON JULY 1 EDITORIAL, LEADERSHIP AND REHABILITEES

SUMMARY: HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN JULY 6
MET WITH TWO CONGENOFFS IN A CONTINUATION OF A SERIES OF
PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS. FEI WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
THE JULY 1 EDITORIAL, WHICH HE CONSIDERED DIRECTED AT THE
EDUCATION OF LEADING CADRES. HE ALSO AGAIN DOWNGRADED THE
POSITION OF CHIANG CHING, WHILE INDICATING THE IMPORTANCE OF
CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, YAO WEN-YUAN, AND WU TEH AS MIDDLE-AGED
LEADERS. FEI ALSO CLAIMED THAT MANY OF HIS OLD FRIENDS WHO
WERE PURGED HAVE NOW BEEN REHABILITATED AND ARE AWAITING
ASSIGNMENTS. END SUMMARY

1. FEI CONSIDERED THE JULY 1 EDITORIAL TO BE AN IMPORTANT
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DOCUMENT AND MAINTAINED THAT THE STRESS WAS ON EDUCATION

OF CADRES, "PARTICULARLY LEADING CADRES." HE INDICATED THAT CAPITALISTS AND BOURGEOISIE OUTSIDE THE PARTY COULD DO LITTLE HARM, BUT THAT A LEADING PARTY MEMBER--SUCH AS LIN PIAO, TENG HSIAO-PING, OR LIU SHAO-CHI--WHO HAD BOURGEOIS TENDENCIES COULD BE DANGEROUS. IN POINTING TO THE EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED MAO'S EDICT OF "LEARNING FROM PAST MISTAKES TO AVOID FUTURE ONES AND CURING THE SKICKNESS TO SAVE THE PATIENT," THUS INDICATING THAT THERE WOULD BE FORGIVENESS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE POINTED OUT THAT TENG STILL RETAINED PARTY MEMBERSHIP.

2. FOLLOWING FEI'S RATHER PRO FORMA CHARACTERIZATION OF THE JOINT EDITORIAL AND ITS IMPORTANCE, CONGENOFF NOTED THAT THE MOST RECENT LIANG HSIAO PIECE HAD TAKEN A CONSIDERABLY MORE STRIDENT TONE. FEI RESPONDED BY REPEATING AN EARLIER ADMINTION TO CONCENTRATE ON MAJOR PRONOUNCEMENTS SUCH AS EDITORIALS AND SPEECHES FOR AUTHORITATIVE GUIDANCE. ALTHOUGH THE SIGNED ARTICLES WERE PREPARED BY CAPABLE PEOPLE, HE SAID, THEY WERE FOR "REFERENCE PURPOSES" ONLY.

3. ON THE LEADERSHIP, FEI SPOKE GLOWINGLY ABOUT THE VIGOR AND ABILITY OF THE "MIDDLE-AGED CENTRAL LEADERSHIP"--CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, YAO WEN-YUAN AND WU TEH. HE WAS PARTICULARLY EFFUSIVE ABOUT THE TALENTS OF WU TEH AND APPEARED TO CONSIDER HIM A RISING STAR. FEI CHARACTERIZED BOTH CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AND YAO WEN-YUAN AS HIS FRIENDS AND SAID HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH CHANG CHUN-CHIAO SINCE THE 1950'S WHEN CHANG HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LIBERATION DAILY IN SHANGHAI. AT ONE POINT FEI REFERRED TO CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AS THE "SECRETARY GENERAL." QUESTIONED ON THIS, FEI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS NO FORMAL SECRETARY GENERAL'S POSITION IN THE PARTY, BUT HE SAID CHANG CARRIES OUT THOSE FUNCTIONS "JUST LIKE TENG HSIAO-PING AND CHEN PO-TA DID BEFORE HIM." WHEN CONGENOFF NOTED THAT THE WESTERN PRESS FREQUENTLY LINKS CHANG AND YAO WITH CHIANG CHING, FEI POINTEDLY RESPONDED THAT CHIANG CHING HAS APPEARED ONLY RARELY SINCE APRIL. HE CONTINUED THAT HE FELT THE TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT HAD BEEN A GOOD THING IN THAT IT TAUGHT LESSON TO BOTH FACTIONS WHO NOW REALIZED THE NECESSITY FOR UNITY. THE MANNER OF FEI'S COMMENT ON CHIANG CHING AND THE LINKAGE WITH TIEN AN CONFIDENTIAL

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MEN SEEMED CLEARLY TO IMPLY THAT A COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WAS NOW FUNCTIONING, BUT WITHOUT MADAME MAO.

4. DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO CANTON, FEI CLAIMED HE FOUND ABOUT 95 PERCENT OF HIS OLD FRIENDS WHO HAD BEEN PURGED BY THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION WERE NOT REHABILITATED. MOST OF THEM, HOWEVER, ARE SITTING AT HOME AWAITING NEW ASSIGNMENTS. ALTHOUGH FEI POINTED OUT THAT THEIR OLD JOBS HAD BEEN TAKEN

BY YOUNGER CADRE, HE DID NOT SPECULATE ON THE ISSUE OF JUST WHAT POSITIONS THESE REHABILITEES MIGHT OBTAIN OR THE EFFECT OF SUCH ASSIGNMENTS ON THE PERSONS BEING REPLACED.

5. FEI INDICATED THAT EVERYONE WAS AWAITING THE THIRD PARTY PLENUM, WHICH HE CONSIDERED SHOULD BE HELD BY THE END OF THE YEAR. HE ALSO SAID THAT AN NPC WOULD BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PLENUM IN ORDER TO CONSTITUTIONALIZE THE SELECTION OF HUA KUO-FENG AS PREMIER. THE OTHER IMPORTANT ITEM OF BUSINESS WOULD BE REPLACEMENTS OF TWO PARTY VICE CHAIRMEN (CHOU EN-LAI AND KANG SHENG). FEI APPEARED TO FEEL SUCH REPLACEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FROM THE CURRENT POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP WITH SOME OF THE FOUR ALTERNATE POLITBURO MEMBERS MOVING UP ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY TO THE POLITBURO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK07852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-0669
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760789/aaaadaal.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEI I-MIN ON JULY 1 EDITORIAL, LEADERSHIP AND REHABILITEES SUMMARY: HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN
JULY 6
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, CH, (FEI I-MIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006